

Awards a tribute to grit of industry

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THE “grit and resilience” of South Australia’s food and beverage industry has been celebrated in the sector’s night of nights.

The winners of the SA Premier’s Food and Beverage Industry Awards – announced on Friday – included quiet achievers such as Dinko Tuna Farmers and Lifestyle Bakery, and consumer favourites Alexandrina Cheese Company and Robern Menz.

Mitolo Family Farms was inducted into the awards hall of fame. Organisers said the business specialised in combining traditional farming techniques with the latest technology, and had been supplying quality produce for almost half a century.

“None of us expected what 2020 has served to us, so it has been especially inspiring to learn the stories behind the winning businesses in this year’s awards,” Food SA chief executive Catherine Sayer said.

“The challenges of 2020 aren’t the first obstacles many of our winners have overcome, but in this new COVID-normal world, the grit and resilience of an industry that is so important to SA’s economic wellbeing is being celebrated.”

Alexandrina Cheese marketing manager Rebekah McCaul said the “greatest honour” of receiving the Consumer Award for a business with up to 15 full-time equivalent employees came from sharing the stage with the “best of the best in the SA food industry”.

“We have had such fun in sharing the news with everyone in the value chain – from our loyal delivery drivers, our relief milker, our cheesemakers in our production team, our administration team, to our valued industry colleagues, and to our family and friends,” Ms McCaul said.

Goolwa PipiCo and Sundrop Farms won the Business Excellence Awards, Never Never Distilling Co took out the Emerging Business Award and Dinko Tuna Farmers and Yumbah Aquaculture received the Export Awards.

FOR FULL LIST OF WINNERS, SEE

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